

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A light guide panel comprising:
2 a plate for dispersing light; and
3 at least one light-emitting diode (LED) coupled to the plate for providing the
4 dispersed light, wherein when the panel is coupled to a keyboard, the at least one LED is
5 located under a portion of the keyboard such that when the at least one LED is illuminated, the
6 light from the at least one LED does not distract a user.
- 1 2. The light guide panel of claim 1 wherein the portion comprises an opaque
2 portion.
- 1 3. The light guide panel of claim 1 wherein the plate includes a plurality of optical
2 fibers for dispersing light.
- 1 4. The light guide panel of claim 1 wherein the at least one LED comprises a
2 plurality of LEDs.
- 1 5. The light guide panel of claim 4 wherein the plurality of LEDs are strategically
2 placed to provide for even distribution of light.
- 1 6. The light guide panel of claim 1 wherein there is a mechanism for reflecting

light which escapes at the edge of the plate back into the plate.

7. The light guide panel of claim 6 wherein the mechanism comprises jagged edges on an end of the plate.

8. The light guide panel of claim 2 wherein the opaque portion comprises the spacebar of the keyboard.

9. The light guide panel of claim 2 wherein the opaque portion comprises a plurality of opaque portions on the keypads.

10. A keyboard assembly comprising:
a keyboard; and
a light guide panel coupled to a keyboard, the light guide panel comprising a plate for providing the dispersed light and at least one LED coupled to the plate for providing the dispersed light, wherein when the panel is coupled to a keyboard, the at least one LED is located under a portion of the keyboard such that when the at least one LED is illuminated, the light from the at least one LED does not distract a user.

11. The keyboard assembly of claim 10 wherein the portion comprises an opaque portion.

12. The keyboard assembly of claim 10 wherein the plate includes a clear sheet of

material with a printed dot pattern for dispersing light.

13. The keyboard assembly of claim 10 wherein the at least one LED comprises a plurality of LEDs.

14. The keyboard assembly of claim 13 wherein the plurality of LEDs are strategically placed to provide for even distribution of light.

15. The keyboard assembly of claim 10 wherein the plate includes a mechanism for reflecting light which escapes at the edge of the plate back into the plate.

16. The keyboard assembly of claim 15 wherein the mechanism comprises jagged edges on an end of the plate.

17. The keyboard assembly of claim 11 wherein the opaque portion comprises the spacebar of the keyboard.

18. The keyboard assembly of claim 11 wherein the opaque portion comprises a plurality of opaque portions on the keypads.

19. A light guide panel comprising:
a plate for dispersing light, wherein the plate includes a plurality of optical fibers, wherein the plate includes a mechanism for reflecting light which escapes at the edge of

4 the plate back into the plate; and

5 a plurality of light-emitting diodes (LEDs) coupled to the plate for providing
6 the dispersed light, wherein when the panel is coupled to a keyboard, the plurality of LEDs are
7 under portions of the keyboard such that when the plurality of LEDs are illuminated, the light
8 from the plurality of LEDs does not distract a user.

1 20. The light guide panel of claim 19 wherein the portions comprise an opaque
2 portion.

1 21. The light guide panel of claim 19 wherein the mechanism comprises jagged
2 edges on an end of the plate.